(c) The process of consultation with the States concerned is on.

Formulation of Action Programme for deep sea mining

1127. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any time bound action programme to undertake deep sea mining by the year 2005;

(b) the country from which Government propose to acquire know-how for deep sea mining ranging from 4500 to 6000 metres and develop the technology to extract metals from the Nodules; and

(c) the details thereof and the foreign exchange involved therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) A time bound action programme has been formulated for undertaking deep seabed mining of polymetallic nodules by the year 2008-2009 AD.

(b) and (c) At present, it is not proposed to acquire know-how from any country for deep seabed mining of polymetallic nodules or for the technology of extraction of metals from the nodules.

Pak Firing in Siachen and Poonch Areas

1128. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been indiscriminate firing by Pak troops in Siachen and Poonch areas during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any protest has been lodged by Government to stop the indiscriminating firing by Pakistan.

(d) the number of Indian military personnel injured and killed in this firing; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) There have been cases of indiscriminate firming by Pak troops in the Poonch areas during the last one year. Such firing by Pak troops in this area have been a feature for many years. In the Siachen area, there have been cases of sporadic firing by Pak troops.

(c) Such incidents are taken up in flag meetings of the Army at the Sub-Sector or Sector Commanders' level.

Three rounds of talks have been held between the Defence Secretaries of the two countries for a solution of the Siachen issue.

(d) There have been a few casualties as a result of the firing incidents. It would not be desirable to disclose details.

(e) Our troops maintain constant vigil and are effectively deployed to meet any contingency on the borders.

Crash of MIG-21 in Jammu and Kashmir

1129. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an IAF Mig-21 aircraft crashed in May, 1988 at Laliher Village in the Kakopora area of Pulwama district of Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what is the number of people who died in the crash; and

(c) whether a Court of Inquiry has been ordered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1 (the pilot).

(c) Yes, Sir.

Environmental Clearance Certificate for Irrigation Schemes

1130. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation schemes pending for want of Centre's environmental clearance certificates, State-wise break-up; and

(b) since when there are lying pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b) 11 Major Irrigation Schemes have been found techno-economically viable by the Central Water Commission are pending for want of environmental clearance certificates. The relevant information is given as under:

S.No.	Name of State/Project	Date of receipt in CWC
	UTTAR PRADESH :	
1	Raising of Meja Dam	February, 1974
	WEST BENGAL	
2	Subernarekha Barrage Project	June, 1981
3	Modernisation of Kangsabati Project	April 1983
	BIHAR:	
4	Upper Sakri Reservoir Scheme	April, 1978
	ANDHRA PRADESH	
5	Sri Ram Sagar Project	September, 1986
6	Srisailam Right Branch Canal Project	January, 1985
7	Jurala Irrigation Project	March, 1986
	KARNATAKA	
8	Karanja Irrigation Project	August, 1983
9	Upper Krishna Project State-I(revised)	November, 1985
	PUNJAB	
10	Lining of watar courses Punjab phase-II	August, 1982
11	Integrated project for development of water logged areas in south West districts of Punjab.	September, 1985.

Visit of Ministers to China

1131. SHRI SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Ministers from India visited China in 1987 and 1988;

(b) if so, the names of the Ministers and the date of their visits; and

(c) whether any other Minister, including the Prime Minister, proposes to visit China in 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement is laid on the table of the House. (see below).

(c) The Prime Minister has accepted in principle an invitation to visit China. No dates have been set for the visit. The Minister of Steel and Mines has also accepted an invitation to visit China. The dates for this visit also remain to be finalised.